How Zotero makes me a better person*
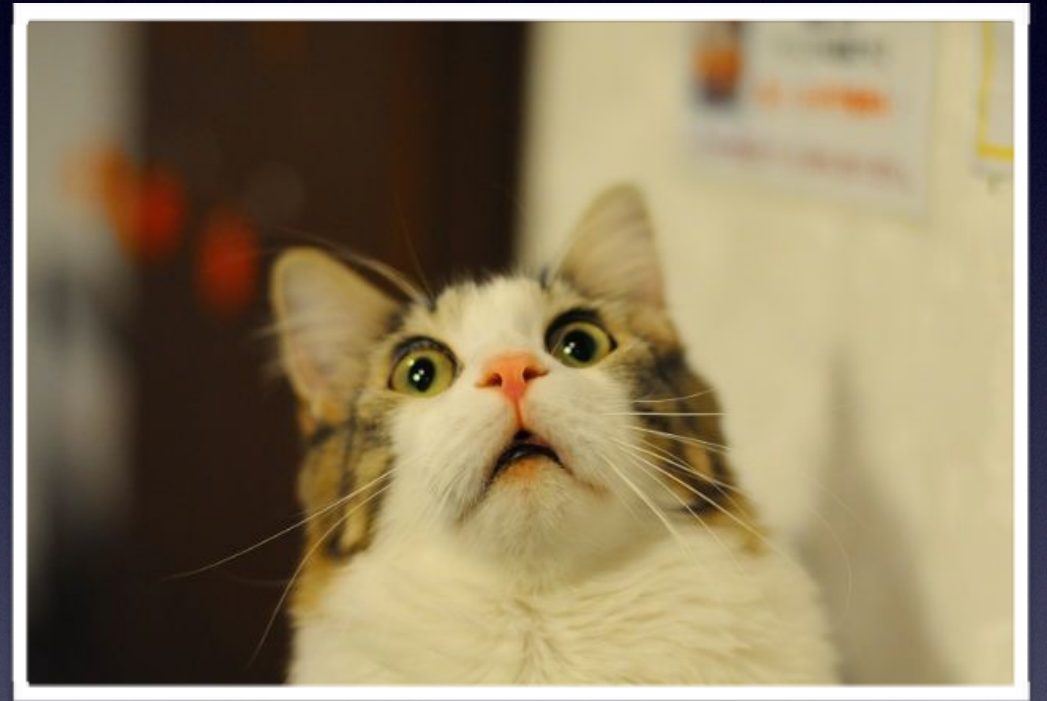
Johannes Jonker

*Sort of…

Who am I?

BA/Honours in Socio-Informatics: regular academic writing and research required. **Tech-minded:** always looking for better and simpler ways to complete tedious tasks.

My journey with Zotero

Me when I did the (manual) referencing for my first essay in first year:

What I didn't like about manual referencing:

1. It was a *schlep* to find and keep track of metadata about sources.

2. It was a *schlep* to keep track of which sources I used in a document and set up a bibliography according to the right style conventions.

Three software choices at the time:

- **RefWorks:** free (👍), but web-based with a horrible interface (👎)

- **EndNote:** old-school and expensive (👎)

- **Zotero:** open source, fantastic workflow (👍)

During undergraduate years, I used Zotero for every essay/research project, writing my essays in Microsoft Word. I built up a library of references, which I could refer to and re-use when writing new essays.

At postgraduate level, I was expected to start working in LaTeX —> forced me to reconsider my options:

- **RefWorks:** still web-based (👎)

- **EndNote:** still expensive (👎)

- **Mendeley:** good interface + cool mobile app (👍), didn't find embedded research finder and "Import into Mendeley" bookmarklet effective (👎)

- **Zotero:** still had a fantastic workflow. Killer feature = integration with Firefox (👍)

My Zotero workflow
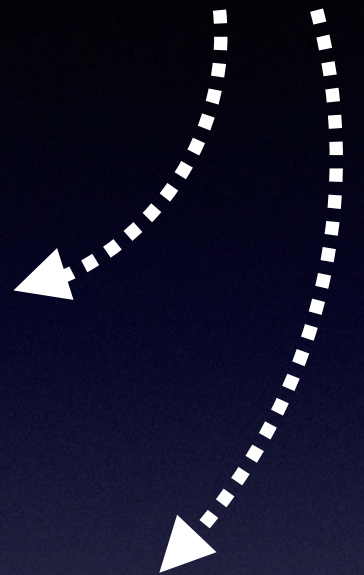
Collect ➤ Organise ➤ Cite

+Add own notes and annotations

Collect

Easily attach PDFs!

1. …using "**Export citation**" links in research catalogs (incl. directly from Google Scholar search results);

2. …from any resource using the **address bar icon**;

3. …using "**Magic Add**" or through **metadata extraction from PDF**;

4. …by **manually entering** metadata (😱).

Organise

- **Folders, folders, folders**

- **Tags** for content organisation, but also for status tracking

- **Stored searches**

- **Quick notes** + **Send to tablet**

Use

- Use in **Microsoft Word** [I don't anymore]

  - Easily set referencing format

  - Easily insert references

  - Easily generate a bibliography in the right style

- Use in **Sublime Text** or other LaTeX editor

Collect ➤ Organise ➤ Cite

A Zotero guide:

http://johannesjonker.com/2013/08/easy-referencing-with-zotero/

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